imports and is determined to ensure that imports do not cause any serious injury to the domestic producers.

Awareness of Indian companies on WTO

978. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Companies did not seem to be fully awakened to the impact of post WTO atmosphere and Indian big business houses seem to be helpless in combating the situation in India as well as globally; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government have taken a number of measures for building awareness amongst the various stakeholders including the Indian companies about the various provisions of the WTO Agreements as well as the various challenges and the opportunities arising out of the WTO agreements. A number of sensitization workshops, meetings, seminars and consultations have been undertaken with the representatives of Indian industry. The various WTO related papers and India's proposals submitted to WTO have been placed on the web-site of the Department of Commerce to facilitate the awareness and consultation process.

In order to protect the domestic producers from the dumping and subsidized imports, the Government have created a Directorate of Anti-dumping and Countervailing Duties headed by a Designated Authority. The Directorate takes action on the basis of complaints from the affected domestic industry and in some exceptional cases even on a *suo-moto* basis. Further to protect the domestic industry from any surge in imports causing or threatening to cause serious injury to it, the Government have established a Directorate of Safeguards to investigate such cases and recommend imposition of Safeguard duties. The Government have also set in a "Coordination Cell" for dealing with the Anti-dumping and Anti-subsidy cases initiated against the Indian exports, headed by the Director General Foreign Trade (DGFT). This Cell coordinates with the concerned officials, agencies and the affected exporters for effectively defending

the anti-dumping/anti-subsidy cases initiated by various trading partners against us. This Cell also provides necessary assistance to the affected exporters through the concerned Export Promotion Councils (EPCs), for defending such cases.

The Government have also taken recourse to the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of WTO in many cases wherein it was found that the member countries had taken measures as were inconsistent with their WTO obligations.

The Government have also taken up schemes like "Textile Modernisation Fund" and schemes for the technological upgradation of the Small Scale Industries with a view to make them competitive and enable them to produce goods as per the required quality standards.

Decline in India's share in international trade

979. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's share in international trade was 1.04 percent during 1960s and it dropped to 0.64 per cent in 1998-99;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the exports of our country are facing a lot of difficulties due to unfair competition and dumping of various items through imports in the country; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken by Government to provide assistance to our exporters and also to meet the challenges posed by the lifting of QRs from the next fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) As per the Economic Survey, India's share in world exports over the years has been as follows: